

Traffic violator nabbed, find bomb

A CASE of dynamite, confiscated by police after they stopped a traffic violator in a congested North Side neighborhood, could have leveled a half-square mile area, killing or injuring as many as 2,000 persons, police said.

Sgt. Frank Golbeck of the gambling unit of the Vice Control Division, arrested Howard Gaedt, 45, of 2337 N. Bosworth Av., in the 1600 block of North Clybourn Avenue.

Golbeck and Patrolmen Louis Monaco and Matthew Plovaniich were in an un-

marked car on a stakeout at Damen and Fullerton Avenues watching for cars that might be used in race wire room operations.

WHEN THEY spotted Gaedt's car weaving in and out of traffic, crossing the center line several times, they stopped him.

"I saw what appeared to be a bomb on the back seat, a portion of wire and what appeared to be blasting caps," Golbeck said.

Police found 103 sticks of dynamite, blasting caps, and

a military simulator training bomb in the trunk of the car.

"I was told that the blasting caps are so sensitive that they might be detonated by the heat from a person's hand," Golbeck said.

GAEDT TOLD police he got the explosives from Philip Alpern, 56, former tavern owner now serving one to three years in prison for bombing a competitor's tavern.

Gaedt surrendered a small arsenal of weapons, including a .30 caliber rifle, he



HOWARD GAEDT

kept at home. He was carrying an empty .22 caliber pistol.

He is charged with possession of explosives, possession of a bomb, failure to register firearms, carrying a concealed weapon, and traffic violations.